

Town of Amherst Public Works Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, November 10, 2004
Home Economics room, Amherst Regional Middle School, 6:30pm

present: Michael Cann, Guilford Mooring, Doug Lowing, Rob Crouner, Vince O'Connor

1. Doug convenes meeting at 6:45pm.

2. Minutes

Committee approves minutes of November 4, 2004 meeting. The minutes of several previous meetings have yet to be approved, which must happen before they can be posted on the town website.

3. Article 14

Doug introduces a draft statement on the committee's position that he wrote. It would take no position on the question of constructing a cul-de-sac on Larkspur Drive, but would support a motion to refer the article in anticipation of a comprehensive traffic study of the entire Amherst Woods area. Rob recommends that the committee take no position if a motion is made to dismiss, rather than refer, the article - though advocacy of a traffic study should be made in any case. Michael points out that the Planning Department is undergoing significant personnel changes. Doug emphasizes that the statement calls for a larger study than that currently envisioned by the Planning Board.

Vince notes that some street acceptance articles scheduled to come before Town Meeting are in question because of inadequate street lighting. He would advocate for installation of solar-powered LED lights. Guilford states that the first generation of LED lights have not performed well (they don't draw enough power, so the ballast fails), and the second generation is not yet available. Guilford states that there is sufficient lighting in Amherst Woods, according to current specifications, even on curves and at intersections. Michael mentions that some lights in town are not used in order to save money. Guilford will bring the street light policy to a future PWC meeting.

Rob would like to include in the statement a recommendation to the Public Transportation Committee to look at the Amherst Woods neighborhood. The committee agrees. Guilford points out that referral of the article to the Select Board implies that various aspects of it would be "farmed out" to appropriate committees. Vince moves that the committee recommend referral of Article 14 to the Select Board; Michael seconds; and the committee votes 4-0 in favor.

4. Article 15

The committee works out language for a statement in support of Article 15 (Atkins Corner design work). There will be no impact on zoning issues. Most of the study will be paid by grants. No design has been finalized. The project is big but low-profile at this point; interested citizens should be encouraged to pay attention to it.

5. Article 20

The committee works out language for a statement in support of Article 20 (Library crosswalk). Since people will cross there anyway, and since the town has already had success with other mid-block crosswalks, it makes sense to do a good design and feasibility study. Such a study can be done in-house for nominal cost.

6. The meeting adjourns at 7:20pm.